Socialist Worker

PACKARD

Resistance Can Win!

ONCE AGAIN the management at Packard are trying to put the boot into the workforce.

Packard are demanding that their workforce give up their morning and afternoon tea breaks, take a 10% pay cut, work a 41 hour week, work in their free time, accept a two year pay freeze and drop any outstanding industrial relations claims.

This is not the first time that Packard went all out to attack workers conditions. During the 1987 strike they used helicopters to remove components from the factory. That dispute resulted in a "no strike clause" being forced on the workforce.

Packard, a subsiduary of General Motors, has factories in Turkey, Portugal and Eastern Europe, where workers pay and conditions are far worse than in Ireland. They are attempting to reduce workers' standards here to maintain their own profits. They hope to play workers off against each other, in order to drive down the pay and conditions of workers in all their plants.

This company seems to be bent on repeating the exercise carried out by bosses at TEAM and Irish Steel. They say "Jump" and the workforce is expected to say "How high?".

Any attempts to cut basic pay, introduce "homeworking" or sweat shop conditions should be resisted by all the workforce.

The intervention of the Labour Relations Commission is no guarantee of success.

Time and time again the LRC have shown themselves to be on the side of the bosses when they threaten to close factories.

Many of the proposed changes will not effect all sections of the workforce. But unity in defence of conditions is essential to win.

If the company succeed now they will definitely be back for more.

Trade union leaders should stand up to them this time round or they will certainly roll the clock backwards.

GENERAL MOTORS CAN BE BEATEN

The parent company of Packard, General Motors, was shown recently by 11,000 striking workers in their car manufacturing plants in the USA that they cant have it all their own way.

Workers there struck against compulsory overtime and forced the company to employ another 800 people.

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